

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139820

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ORIGIN SS-10

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O 171646Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 139820

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC AMEMBASSY AMMAN INFO AMEMBASSY
ABU DHABI AMCONSUL DHAHRAN AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY TEHRAN FROM
AMEMBASSY SANAA 17 JUL 73 (171555Z JUL 73):

QUOTE SANAA 1319

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA, JO, UAE

SUBJ: EMERGENCY ARMS SUPPLY TO YAR

REF: STATE 138643; AMMAN 3720

DEPARTMENT PASS USCINCEUR, SECDEF FOR ISA

1. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA DROPPED IN JULY 17 TO
REVIEW ARMS SITUATION, PARTICULARLY STATUS OF YARG
REQUEST TO JORDAN FOR AMMUNITION AND CAPTURED RUSSIAN
EQUIPMENT. AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA WAS FEELING A BIT BRUISED
AS RESULT HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ALMOST TOTAL ABSENCE
OF PLANNING AND COHESION WITHIN YARG MILITARY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 139820

2. AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA EXPLAINED THAT, AS WE KNEW, YARG HAD PUT TO GOJ, AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME IT APPROACHED USG, A REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT OF ESSENTIAL AMMUNITION. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN INFORMED MUSTAFA OF READINESS IN PRINCIPLE TO COMPLY WITH AIRLIFT REQUEST. AMMAN HAD DISPATCHED AN AIRFORCE OFFICER TO RECONNOITER SANAA AIRPORT FACILITIES AND REPORT TELEGRAPHICALLY IN ANTICIPATION OF C-130 LANDINGS. OFFICER ARRIVED IN SANAA JULY 15. IN INTERIM, HOWEVER, CIC MUHAMMAD AL-IRYANI HAD INFORMED MUSTAFA THAT DELIVERY BY SEA FROM AQABA TO HODEIDA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. MUSTAFA PASSED THIS TO AMMAN JUST BEFORE RJAF OFFICER ARRIVED SANAA. ON LEARNING OF ARRIVAL, CIC IRYANI CHANGED HIS MIND AGAIN AND HAS ASKED FOR AIR DELIVERY OF, AT MINIMUM, 50 CALIBER MACHINEGUN AND 76 MM MORTAR AMMUNITION. AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA HAS CONVEYED THIS TO AMMAN WITH RECOMMENDATION GOJ PROCEED AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

3. AS RECOMMENDED PARA 4 AMMAN REFTEL, I DISCUSSED PARAS 3A AND 3B OF STATE REFTEL WITH AMBASSADOR MUSTAFA, POINTING OUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN REVIEWED BY AMBASSADOR BROWN WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN PREVIOUS DAY. MUSTAFA GRATIFIED THAT USG AND GOJ, ACTING TOGETHER, COULD MOVE SO QUICKLY TO MEET WHAT WAS UNDENIABLY A REAL YEMENI NEED DESPITE SCATTERED NATURE OF YEMENI APPROACHES. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN FUTURE IN VIEW OF YARG'S COMPLETE LACK OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM, WE MIGHT WISH CONSIDER QUINQUEPARTITE COMMITTEE (US, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN AND YEMEN) TO EXAMINE YAR'S ARMS NEEDS AND COORDINATE ASSISTANCE. I SAID I THOUGHT MY GOVERNMENT WOULD FEEL THIS TYPE OF FORMAL, MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION PREMATURE. ON THE US SIDE, AT LEAST, THIS WOULD TEND IDENTIFY US MORE DIRECTLY AND PUBLICLY WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN THAN WE WISHED--IN YAR'S OWN INTEREST.

4. MUSTAFA HAS SENT TWO QUALIFIED JORDANIAN OFFICERS FOR RECONNAISSANCE OF YAR DEFENSES ALONG ENTIRE FRONTIER BEGINNING JULY 17. OFFICERS HAVE BEN PRO-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 139820

MISED FULLEST YARG COOPERATION AND ACCESS. MUSTAFA WILL PASS US THEIR REPORT.

5. MUSTAFA REPORTED CONVERSATION JULY 16 WITH CIC IRYANI. IRYANI HAD STATED THAT SAUDI SHIP NOW BEING UNLOADED IN HODEIDA HAD BROUGHT 500,000 ROUNDS OF 50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, SIX 106MM RECOILESS RIFLES,

UNSPECIFIED QUANTITIES OF M-1 AND 81MM MORTAR
AMMUNITION, AND HAND GRENADES. SOME OLDER RIFLES EVI-
DENTLY ALSO INCLUDED.

6. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HAD ALSO SEEN CHIEF OF STAFF
MASWARI FOLLOWING LATTER'S RETURN FROM JUST-CON-
CLUDED OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS. LATTER HAD
BEEN EXTENSIVELY WINED,DINED AND SHOWN AROUND ARMS
FACTORIES BY GOF WHICH HAS EVIDENLY DECIDED TO TRY TO
GET INTO THE YEMEN ARMS ACT DESPITE EARLIER STATEMENTS
TO US BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE THAT THIS ABSOLUTELY
PRECLUDED BY FRENCH POLICY OF IMPARTIALITY BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. CRAWFORD UNQUOTE RUSH

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